
REQUIREMENTS

The DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment, must be used to document information and/or assess a prospective adoptive family that expresses an interest in a child(ren) for the purposes of adoption **when one of the following applies:**

- There is another family who currently has placement of the child(ren) and **all** of the following circumstances exist:
 - The family with placement of the child(ren) has demonstrated an ability to meet the physical and emotional needs of the child(ren).
 - The child(ren) has established a close emotional attachment with the family with whom they are placed.
 - Removal of the child(ren) from the placement family is likely to result in psychological harm to the child(ren).
 - The family in which the Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment is to be completed for does not have or has not maintained a relationship with the child(ren) through visits or other communication.
- A relative that has had no previous relationship with the child(ren) is applying for adoption.
- A relative who lives outside the state of Michigan is requesting adoption of a specific child(ren) and requesting an Adoptive Family Assessment through the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) office may result in an unacceptable delay of adoption.
- The prospective family is excluded from consideration; see [ADM 0540, Exclusions from Adoptive Family Assessment](#).

Note: The DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment, must document the reason(s) why the prospective family is excluded from consideration.

- If a DHS-3130A, Relative/Unrelated Caregiver Home Study completed by the foster care worker or a CWL-3130, Initial Foster/Adoption Home Evaluation was completed by the licensing worker, and the family was determined to be unsuitable for placement of the child(ren).

Note: If the prospective family was previously denied placement of the child(ren) but was otherwise found to be appropriate/approved by foster care staff, a full MDHHS- 5643, Adoptive Family Assessment, must be completed (for example, a relative lived out of state and the plan was reunification so the child(ren) was not placed). See [ADM 510, Adoptive Family Assessments](#) for additional information.

Note: If extenuating circumstances exist that are not covered above, a decision to use the DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment, requires approval from the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) office following consultation.

Best Interests of the Child Met

If, after completing the DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment, for the interested family, the worker determines that the best interests of the child(ren) may be met by placing the child(ren) with this family, a full DHS-5643, Adoptive Family Assessment, of the interested family must be completed, as well as a [DHS-612, Child Specific Adoption Family Assessment](#), if applicable.

Distribution

A copy of the completed DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment (signed and dated), must be given to the applicants if a MDHHS-5643, Adoptive Family Assessment, will not be completed. The applicants must sign the assessment or an acknowledgement form to document their receipt and review of the document.

POLICY CONTACT

Questions about this policy item may be directed to the [Child Welfare Policy Mailbox](#) (Child-Welfare-Policy@michigan.gov).